

**MARVEL**

ISSUE

**31**

WORLD WAR X

WOOD • MARTINEZ • LUCAS • SOTOMAYOR

ULTIMATE COMICS™

# X-MEN®



GABRIEL  
HARDMAN  
2013



**LIVING IN A WORLD  
WHERE MUTANTS ARE  
HATED AND FEARED MORE  
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP  
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS  
BANDED TOGETHER TO  
FIGHT BACK.**

# **ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN**



## **PREVIOUSLY:**

Jean Grey dropped a toxin over Utopia, poisoning the Sentient Seed. The mutants could do little but watch as the source of life on their reservation slowly began to die.

Jean followed the attack with a wave of semi-sentient soldiers. Luckily, Colossus had just arrived in Utopia and successfully led the battle against Jean's army.

With Jimmy Hudson at her side, Jean has been using any means necessary to lure Kitty Pryde into war. And Kitty is beginning to see that she has no choice but to give Jean what she wants: a mutant war to end them all.

But it won't be Kitty at the helm. She has stepped down as leader of Utopia--and Colossus has taken her place!

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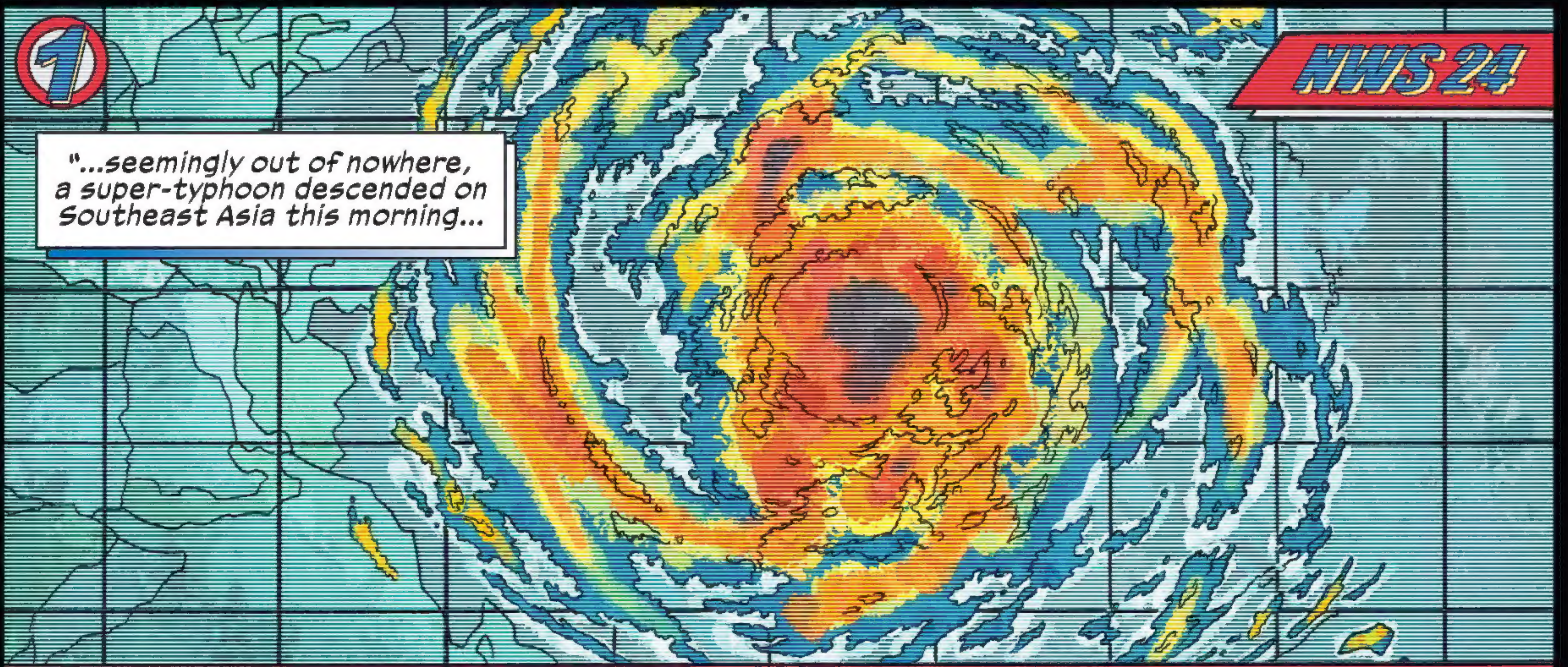
**ALAN  
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



1

NWS 24

"...seemingly out of nowhere,  
a super-typhoon descended on  
Southeast Asia this morning..."

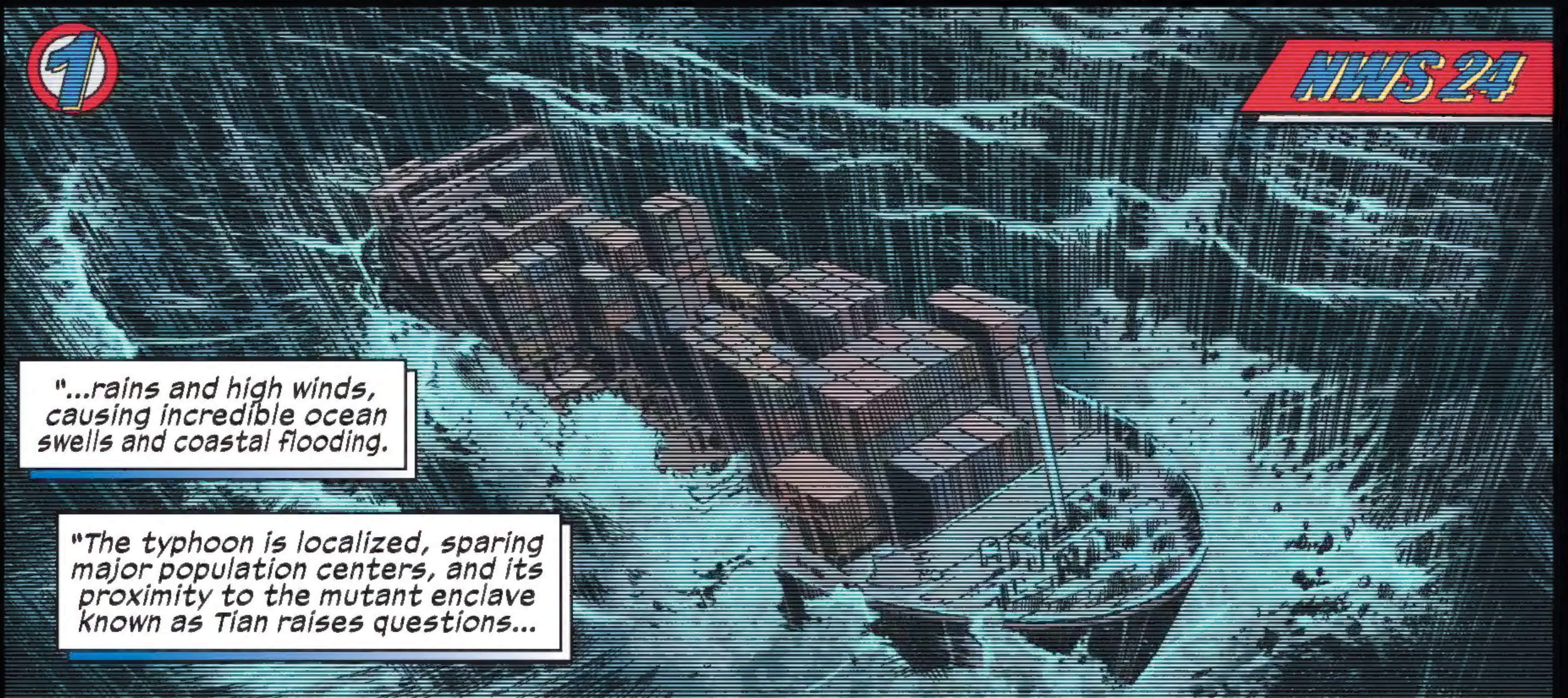


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NWS 24

"...rains and high winds,  
causing incredible ocean  
swells and coastal flooding."

"The typhoon is localized, sparing  
major population centers, and its  
proximity to the mutant enclave  
known as Tian raises questions..."

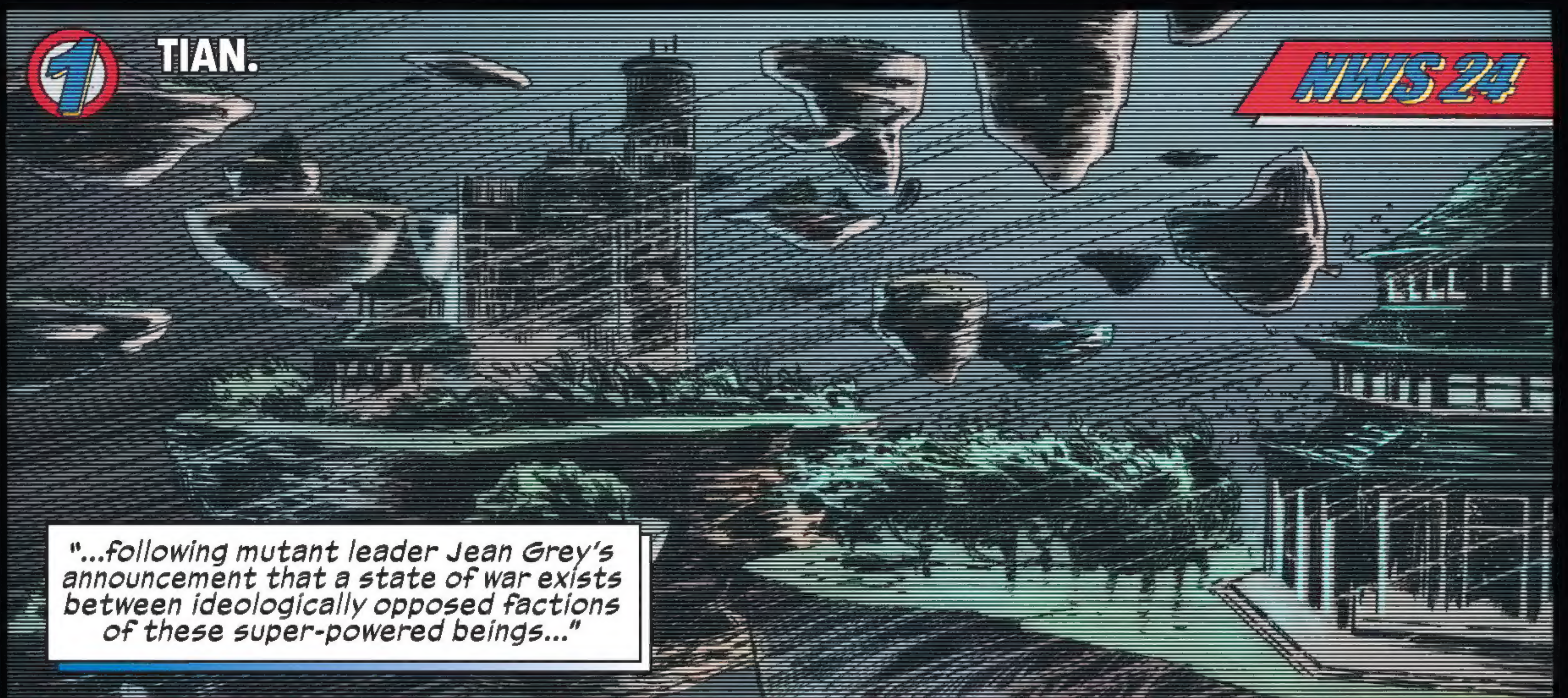


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TIAN.

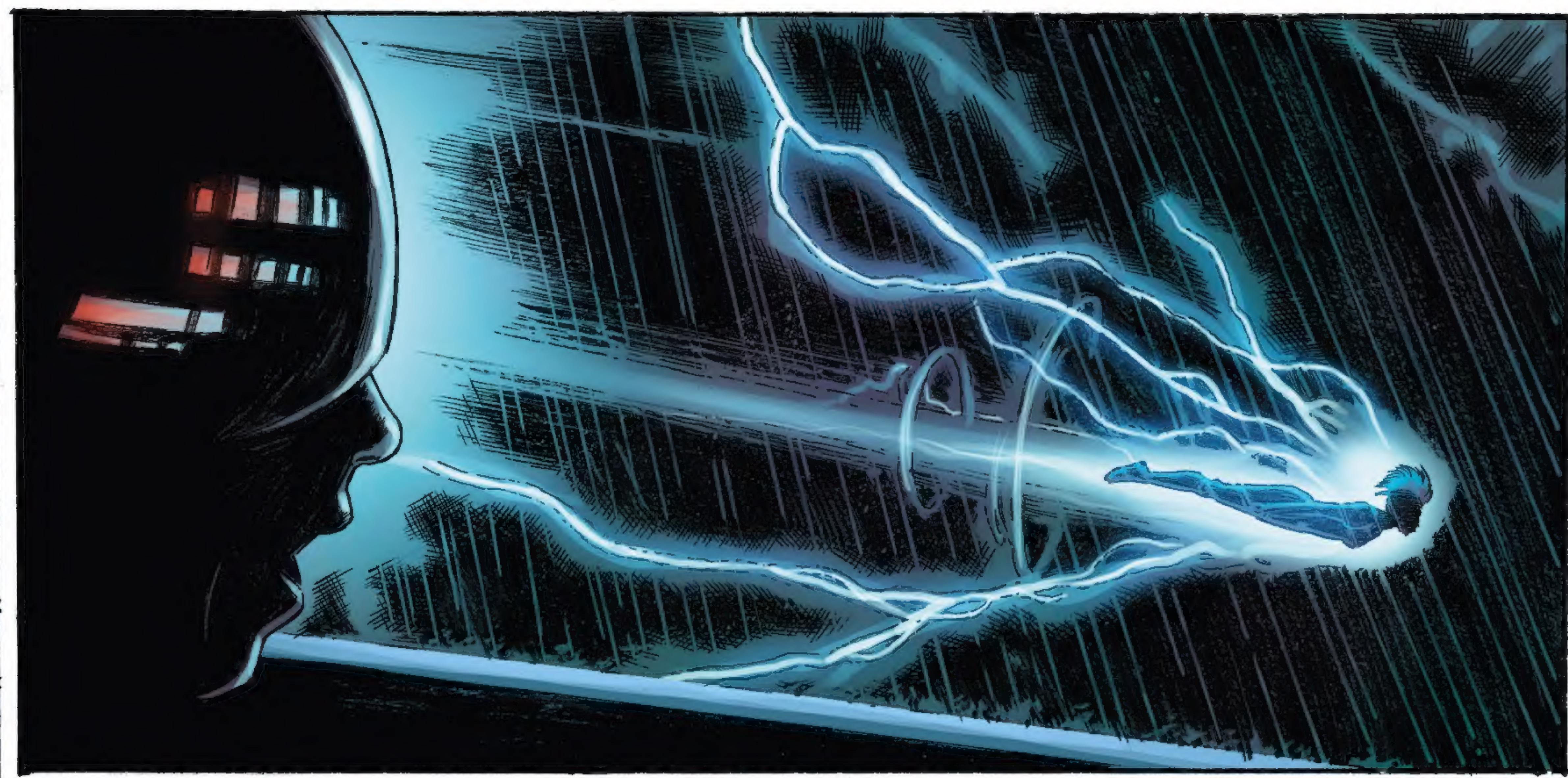
NWS 24

"...following mutant leader Jean Grey's  
announcement that a state of war exists  
between ideologically opposed factions  
of these super-powered beings..."

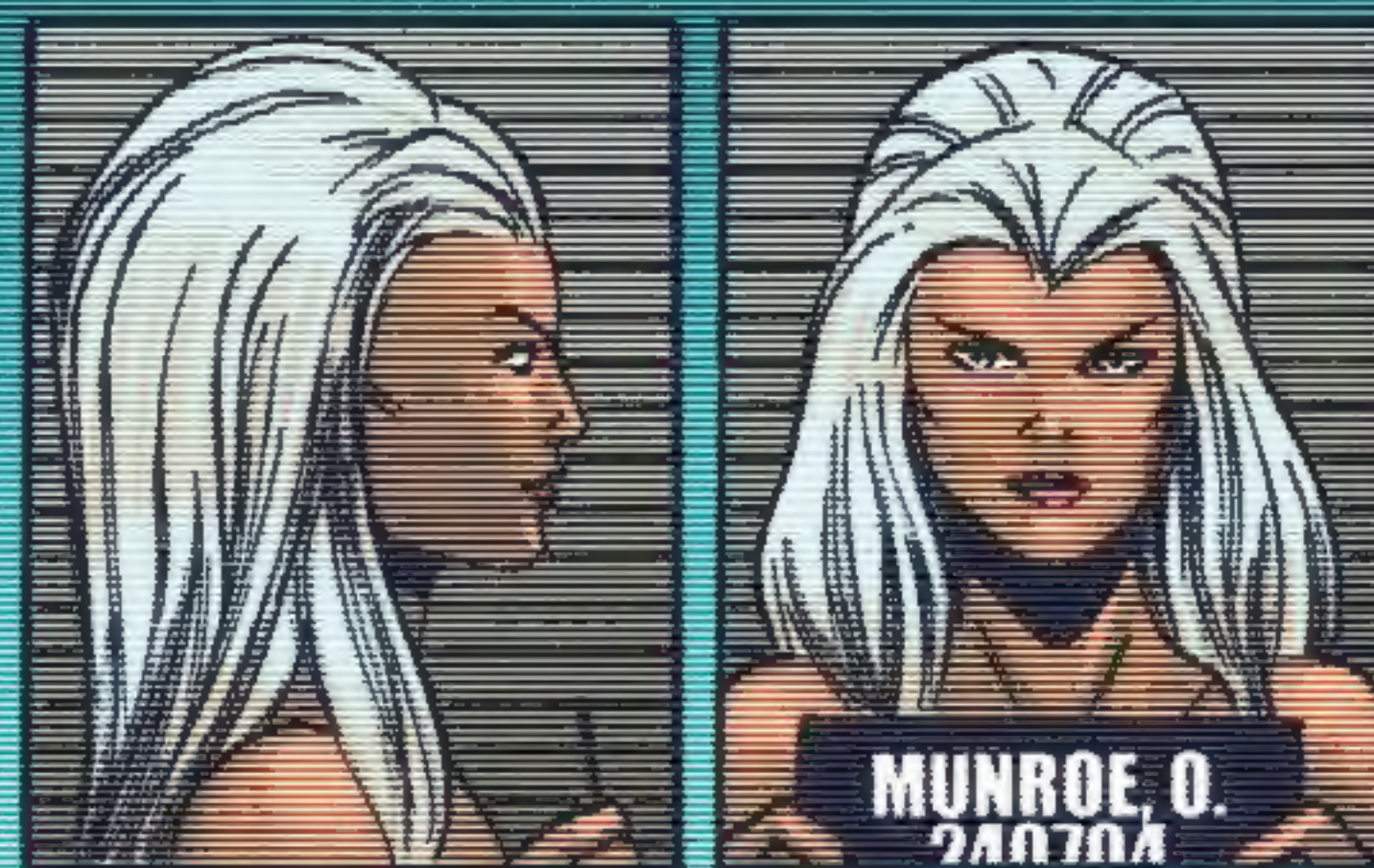




NEARBY.  
ROUTINE AWACS FLIGHT  
OUT OF GUAM.



...identified as  
Ororo Munroe, aka "Storm,"  
a fugitive from government  
custody, now believed to be  
aligned with Utopia and the  
terrorist Kitty Pryde.



Her proximity to  
the super-typhoon and  
Tian itself certainly lends  
credibility to Jean Grey's  
statements...







# ***WORLDV WARV***

## ***PART THREE***

**WOOD MARTINEZ**

**LUCAS SOTOMAYOR**





She dies.



Kitty? No one's going to kill Kitty Pryde.

That wasn't part of the deal.

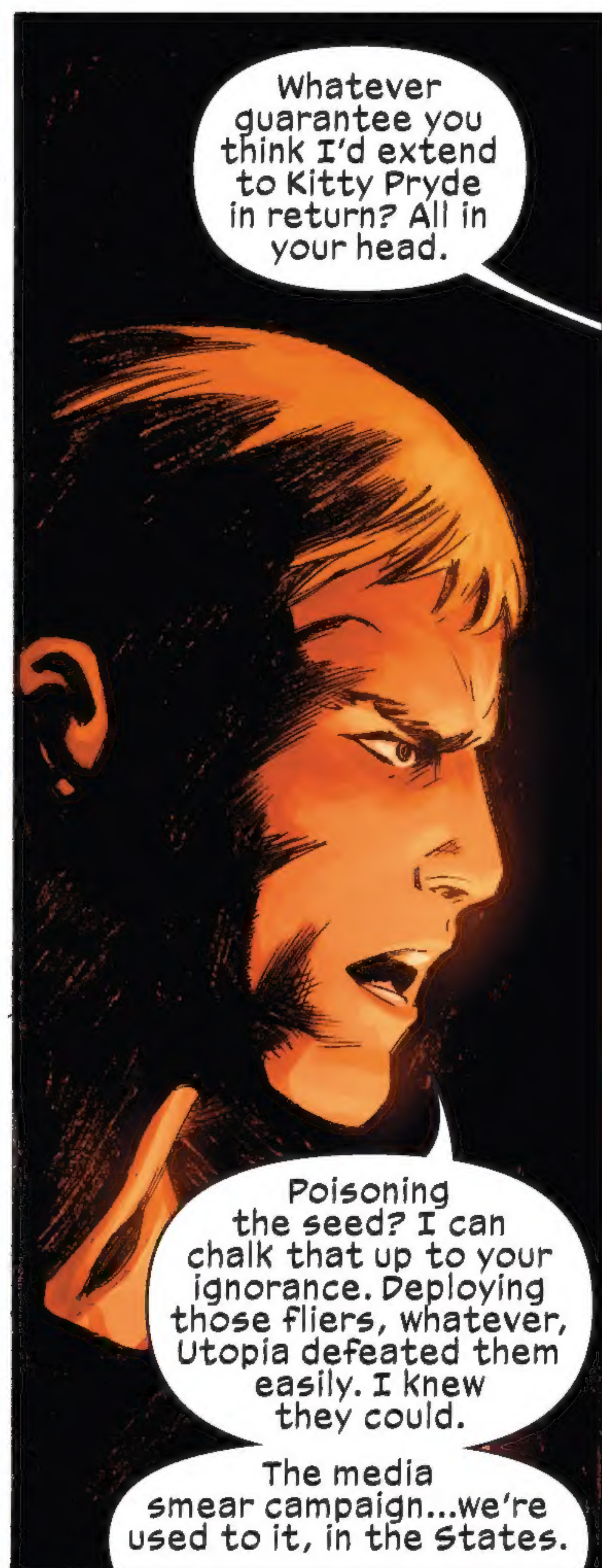
I'm here, so you leave her alone.



Oh, is that the deal? I don't think so.

You are here, James Hudson, because you are a warrior, and you wanted to fight. The hippie commune that is Utopia was just frustrating you.

You came to me, where the action is.



Whatever guarantee you think I'd extend to Kitty Pryde in return? All in your head.

Poisoning the seed? I can chalk that up to your ignorance. Deploying those fliers, whatever, Utopia defeated them easily. I knew they could.

The media smear campaign...we're used to it, in the States.



But you want to deliberately **assassinate** Kitty Pryde.

Straight up kill her.

She escalated--

**NO!**





Every single thing you've done, starting from when you snuck into Utopia, has been you making preemptive moves on *us*.

"*Us*"?

That word speaks volumes about your loyalties.



So you choose, James. Tian, where you can be a valued member of a pro-mutant rights movement that will defend itself properly...



...or *peace-loving Utopia*, where you can be the most pointless mutant in that sorry patch of dead grass.

Choose carefully...



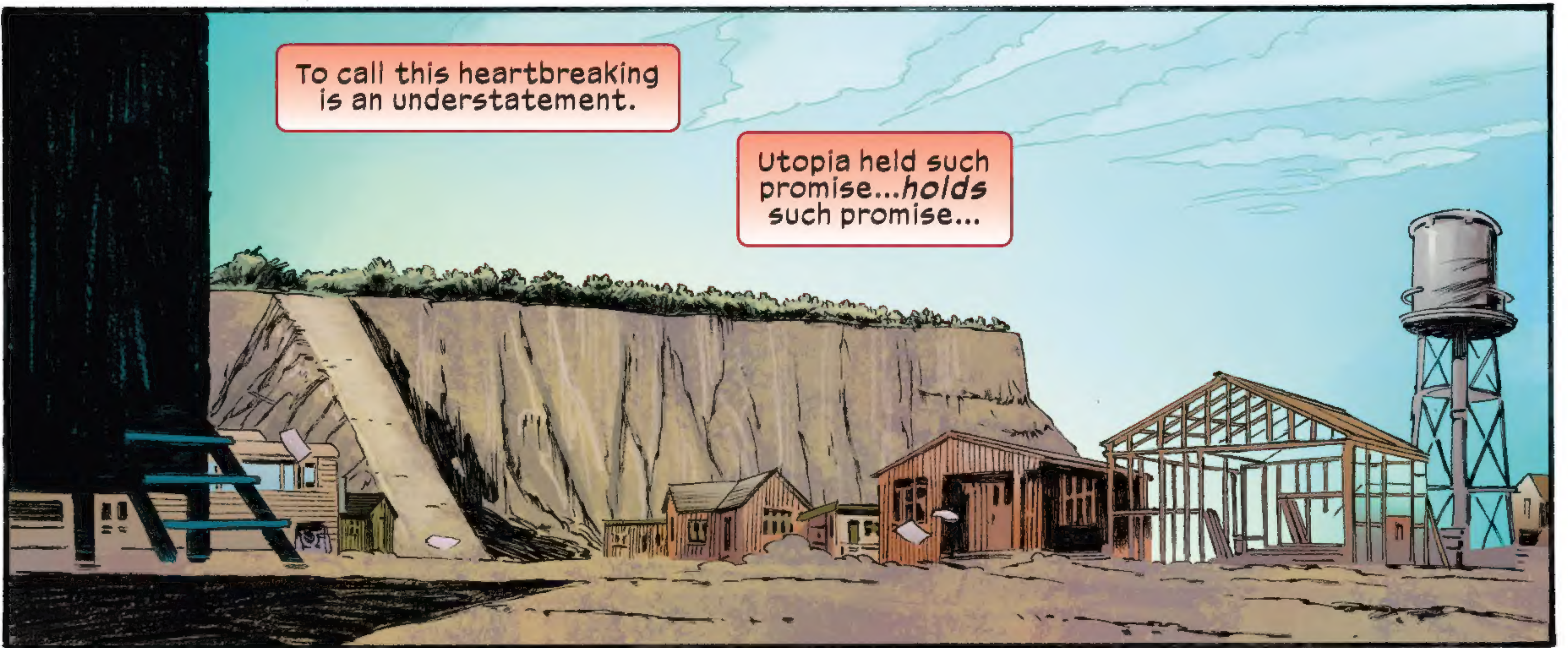
...because if you choose *Tian*, you will be expected to support *every single decision* I make.





To call this heartbreaking  
is an understatement.

Utopia held such  
promise...*holds*  
such promise...



The idea that mutants could  
live open and free and proud,  
in a space they can call their  
own and not fear Strykers or  
Sentinels or government troops.



Now we have to add "*mutants*"  
to that list of enemies. Because  
we're at war, and our enemy feels  
emboldened to attack us within  
our borders. To drop bombs on  
our heads.



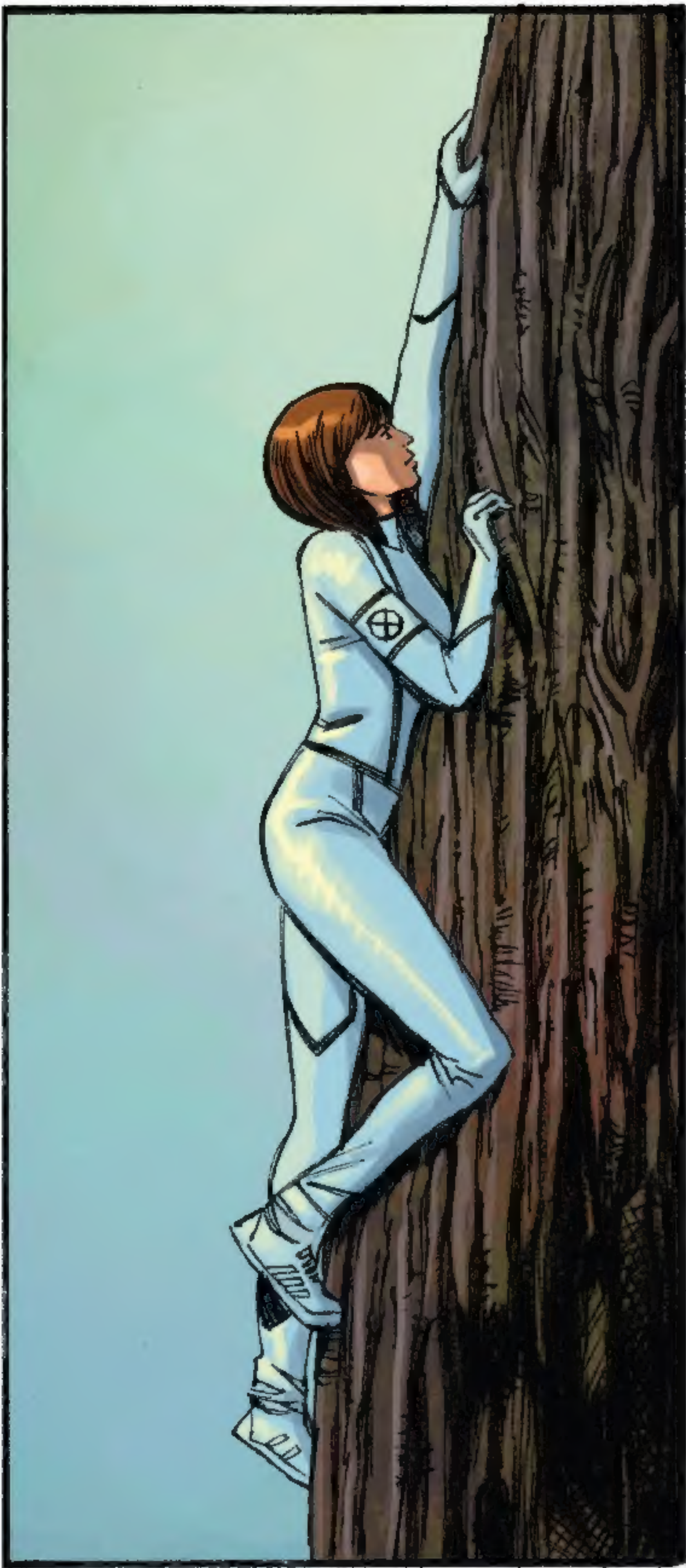
So back underground  
we go, into darkness  
and the caves...



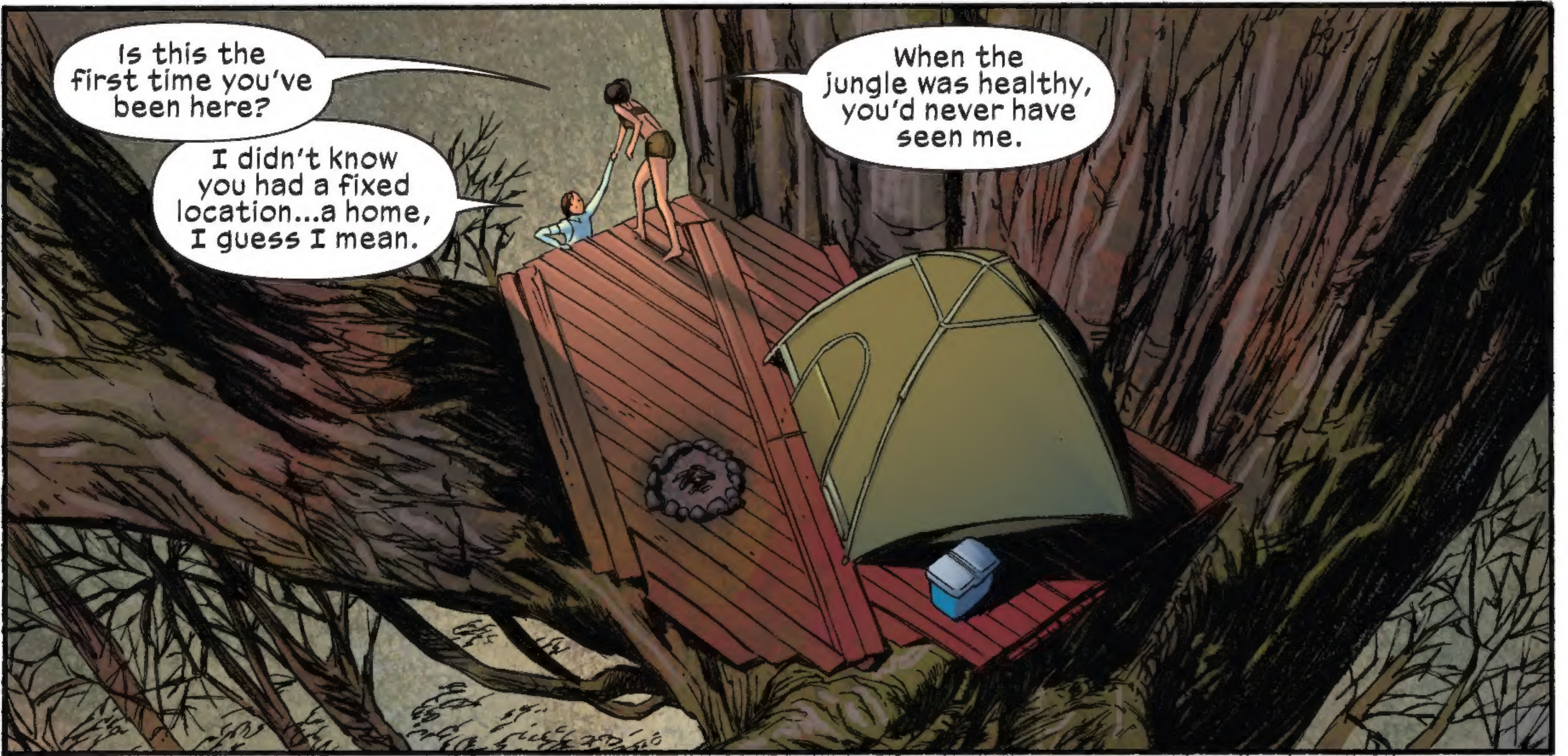
...full of fear  
and anger and  
despair.







A hand,  
Rogue?



Is this the  
first time you've  
been here?

I didn't know  
you had a fixed  
location...a home,  
I guess I mean.

When the  
jungle was healthy,  
you'd never have  
seen me.



How is  
she?

Oh, Kitty,  
I don't  
know.

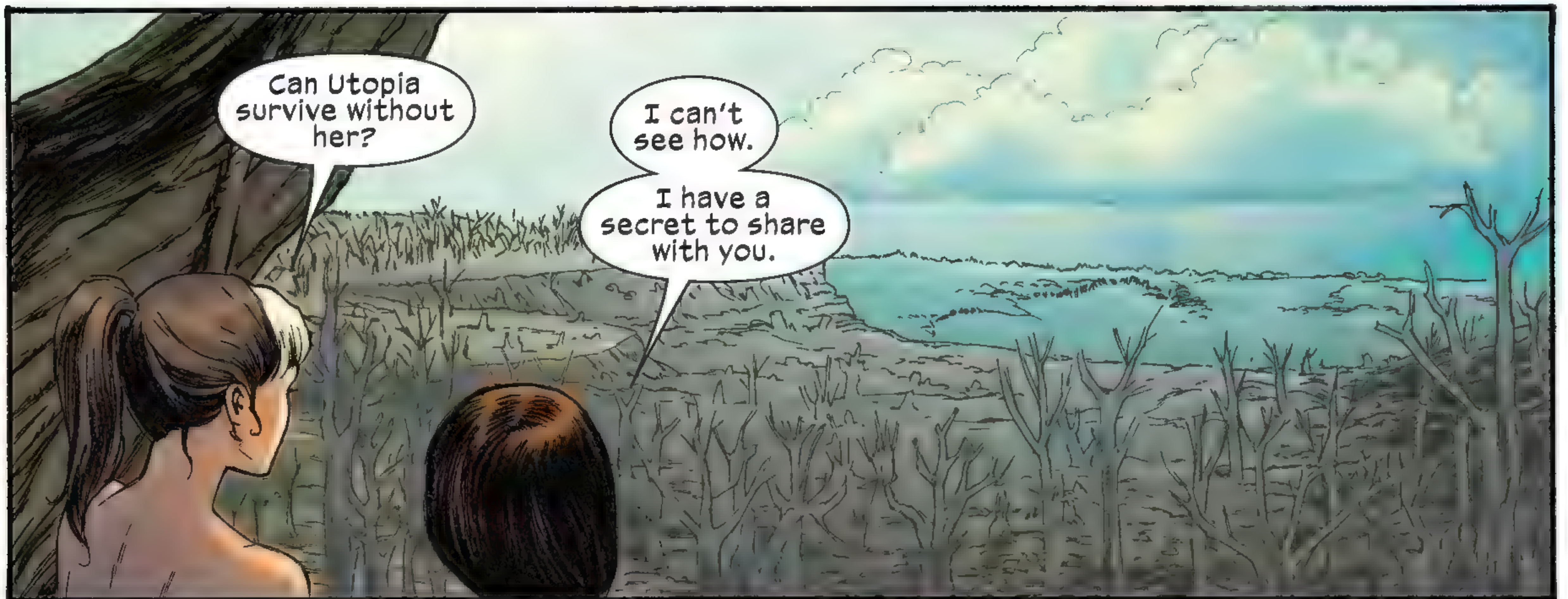




Can you and Blackheath and Zero bring her back?

They think they can. Blackheath set up some lab somewhere to work on clearing the toxin. They wouldn't tell me where...I probably shouldn't know.

I'd never leave them alone.



Can Utopia survive without her?

I can't see how.

I have a secret to share with you.

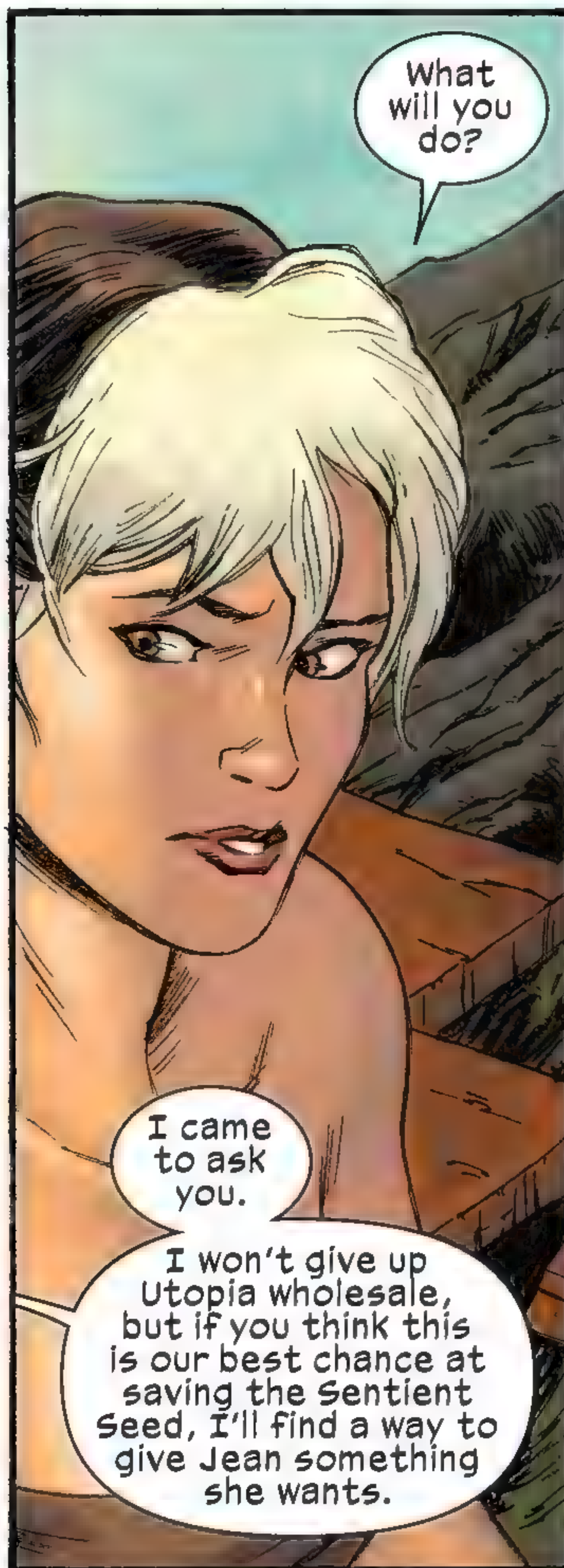


After the battle with the Tian fliers, I found something at my house.

A message from Jean Grey... one of those fliers must have been tasked with delivering it.

What was it?

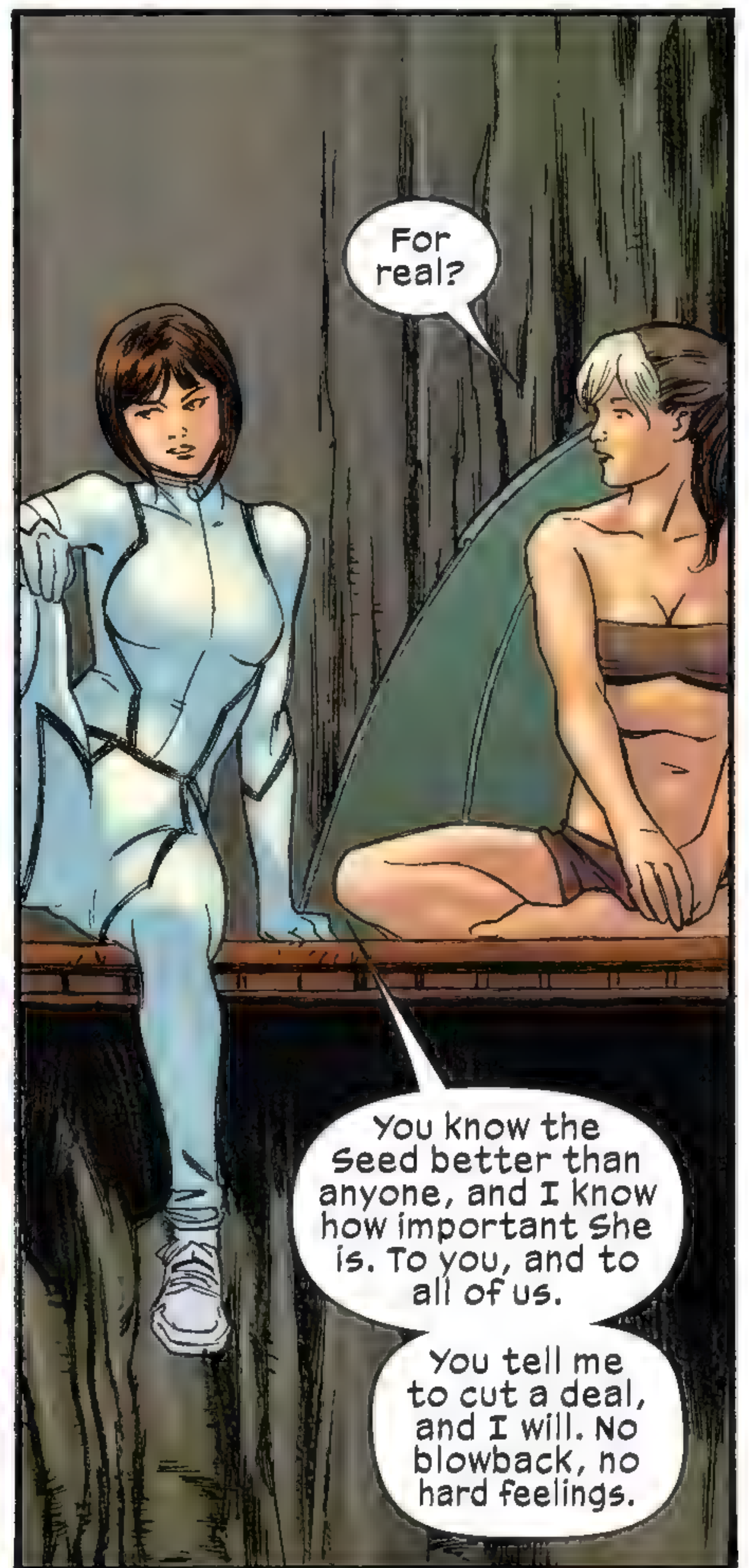
Terms. The surrender of Utopia and "repatriation" to Tian in exchange for the herbicide cure.



What will you do?

I came to ask you.

I won't give up Utopia wholesale, but if you think this is our best chance at saving the Sentient Seed, I'll find a way to give Jean something she wants.

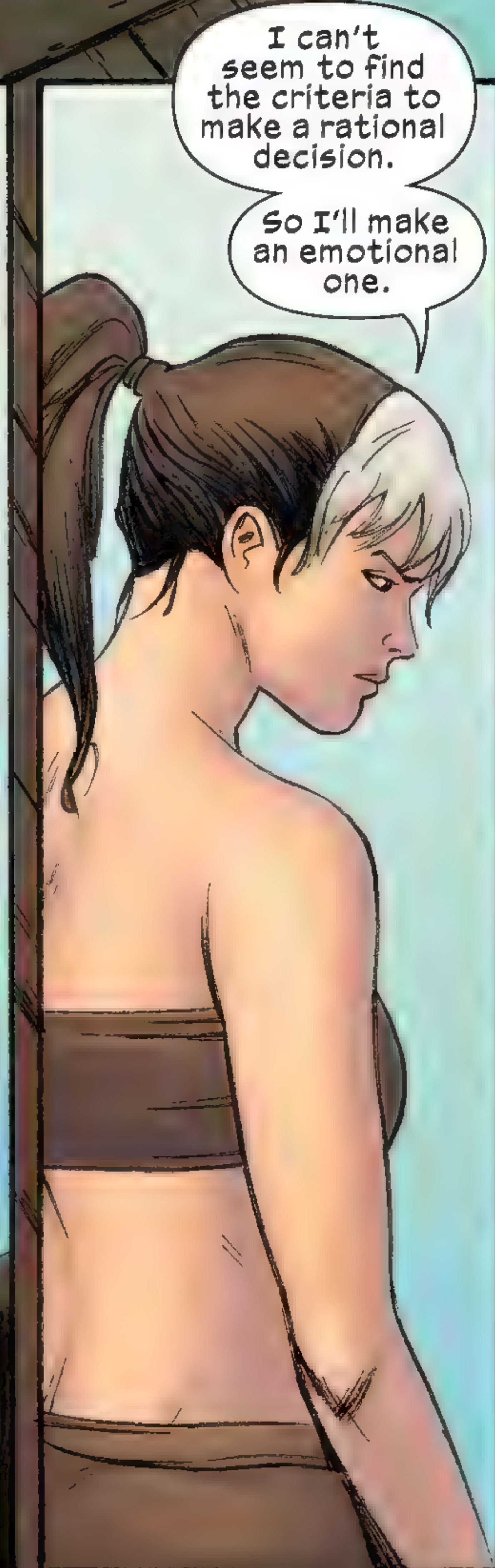
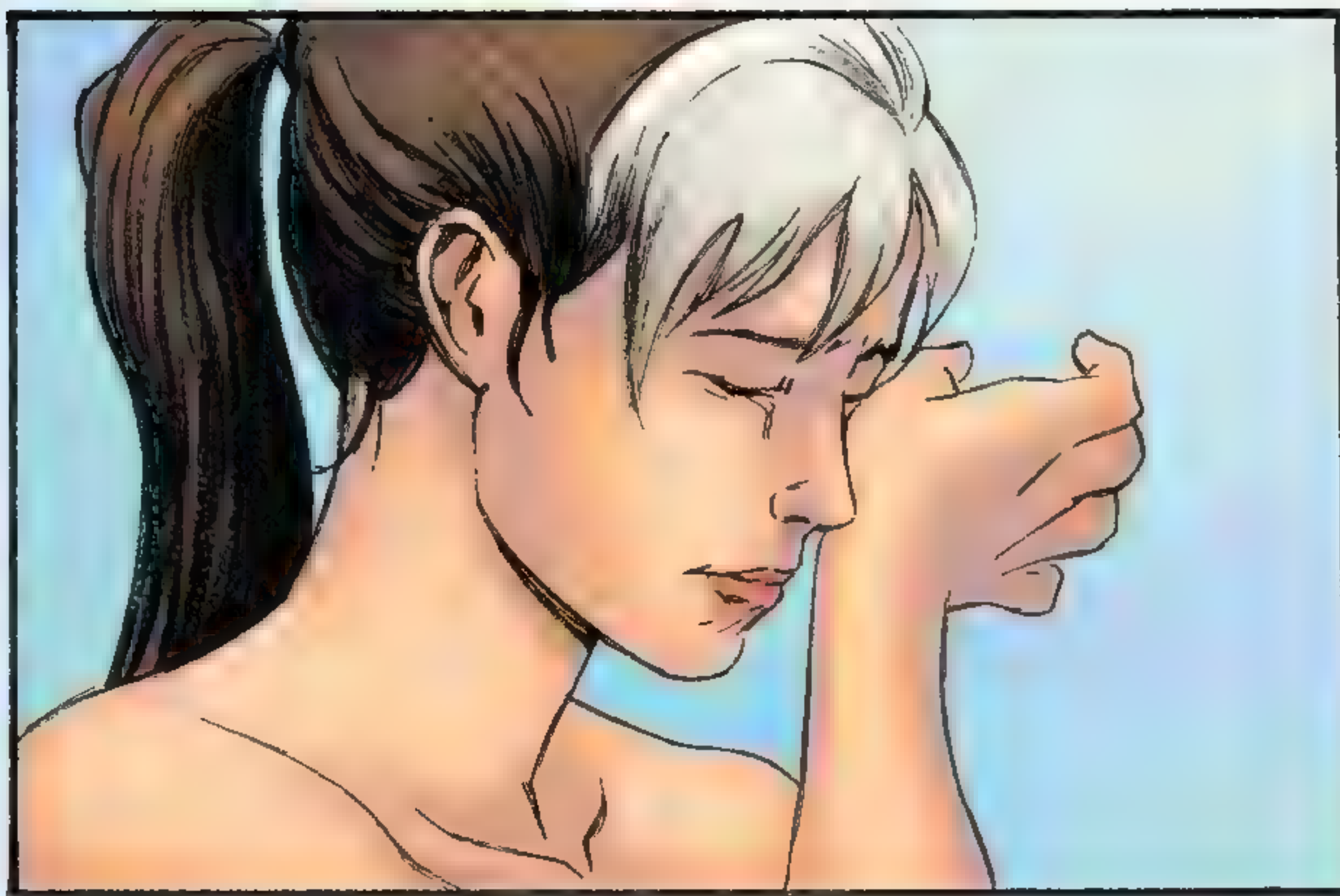


For real?

You know the Seed better than anyone, and I know how important she is. To you, and to all of us.

You tell me to cut a deal, and I will. No blowback, no hard feelings.











LATER.

You are both  
my war council and  
my army.

We, as a group,  
are all Utopia has  
to respond to the  
aggression from Tian.  
And, I believe,  
we are all Utopia  
needs.

Blackheath,  
Shola, Warpath,  
Iceman, Husk...

...Armor, Mach  
Two, and a new  
face, Aleks, who  
arrived recently  
with Colossus.

Rogue is in the  
trees. Storm is maintaining  
eyes on Tian. And Magma is seeing  
to the shelters in the mountains.  
Everyone else is underground. We  
are the first and last line  
of defense.

Colossus,  
everyone, is the  
new leader of  
Utopia.

I am,  
with immediate  
effect, stepping  
down.

I am the  
final member of  
Utopia's army.

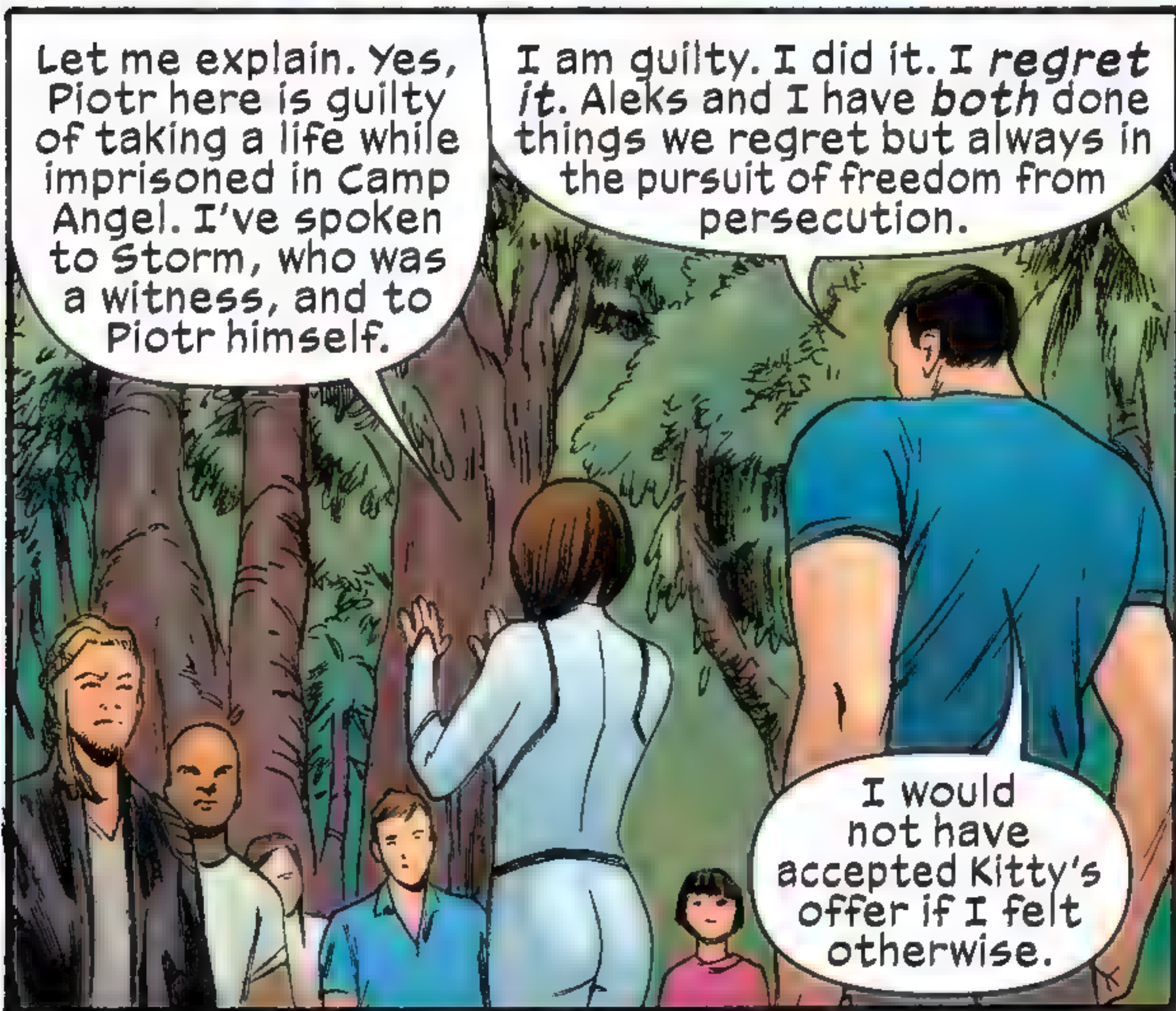




...  
wait,  
what?

Colossus?  
Isn't he a  
murderer?

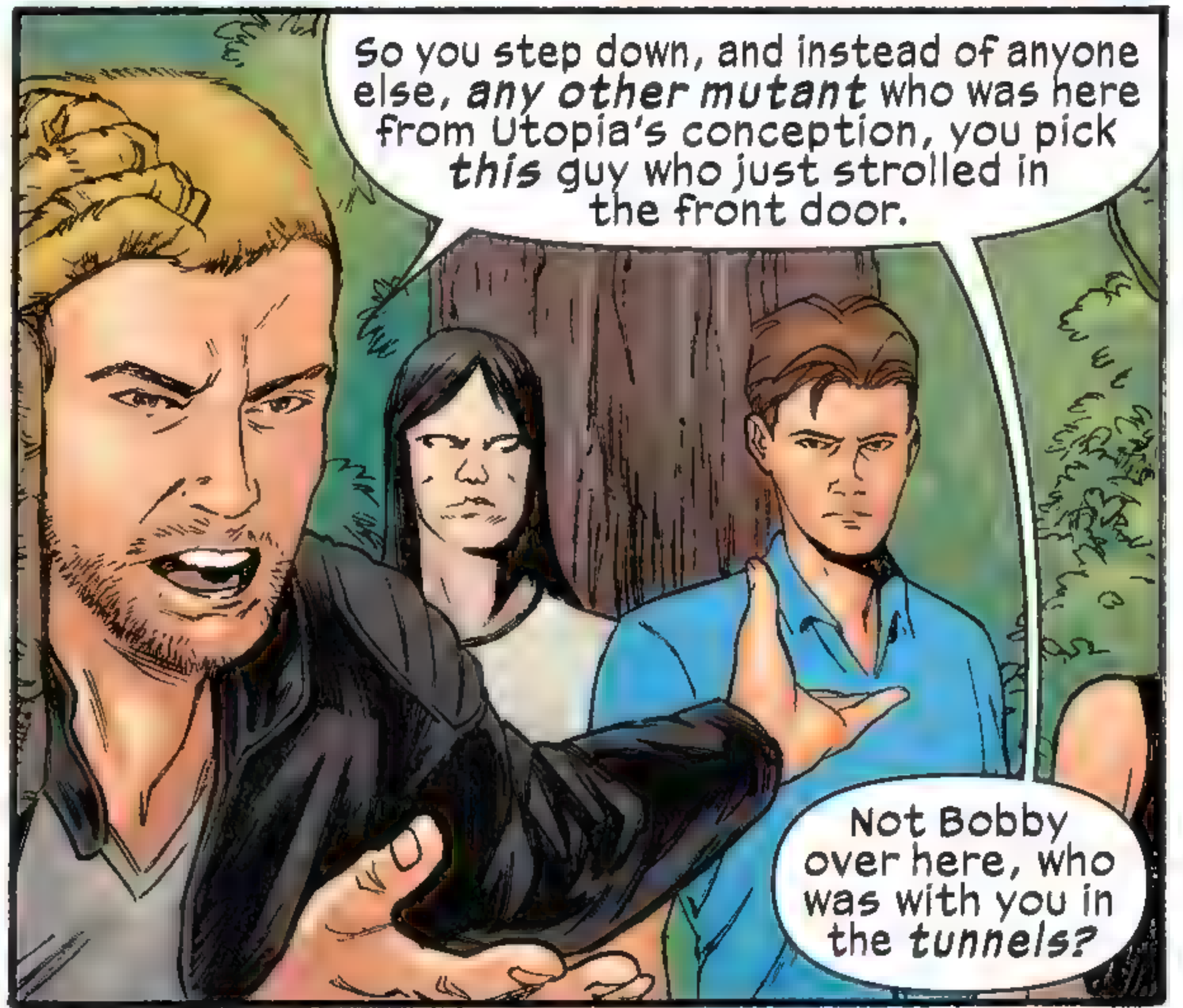
Paige!



Let me explain. Yes,  
Piotr here is guilty  
of taking a life while  
imprisoned in Camp  
Angel. I've spoken  
to Storm, who was  
a witness, and to  
Piotr himself.

I am guilty. I did it. I *regret*  
*it*. Aleks and I have *both* done  
things we regret but always in  
the pursuit of freedom from  
persecution.

I would  
not have  
accepted Kitty's  
offer if I felt  
otherwise.



So you step down, and instead of anyone  
else, *any other mutant* who was here  
from Utopia's conception, you pick  
*this* guy who just strolled in  
the front door.

Not Bobby  
over here, who  
was with you in  
the tunnels?



I have one goal:  
the survival of Utopia  
as a safe haven for  
mutants. To get there,  
two things have  
to happen.



I *have* to  
be removed as  
the face of  
Utopia.

I am hated by  
too many people--a  
symbol of a dark period  
in American history, and  
there are some people  
in the American  
government who will  
never trust me.  
Period.



Utopia needs  
a new public face,  
someone who will  
project strength and  
power and intimidate  
without being actually  
provocative.

Colossus.  
He's physically  
the part, and is a  
fresh face to those  
same people who  
hate mine on  
sight.

Such  
as Jean  
Grey.





What, you step down, and you think you can preempt this war?

No, but I make it harder for Jean to smear me, and, by extension, you, in the media.



He's a liability. His boyfriend isn't a mutant.



That's no secret, and anyway, we won't be questioning anyone's loyalties here. Colossus is solid, and Aleks risked his *life* to fight the Tian fliers.



Too much to hope for a vote *this* time, I assume?

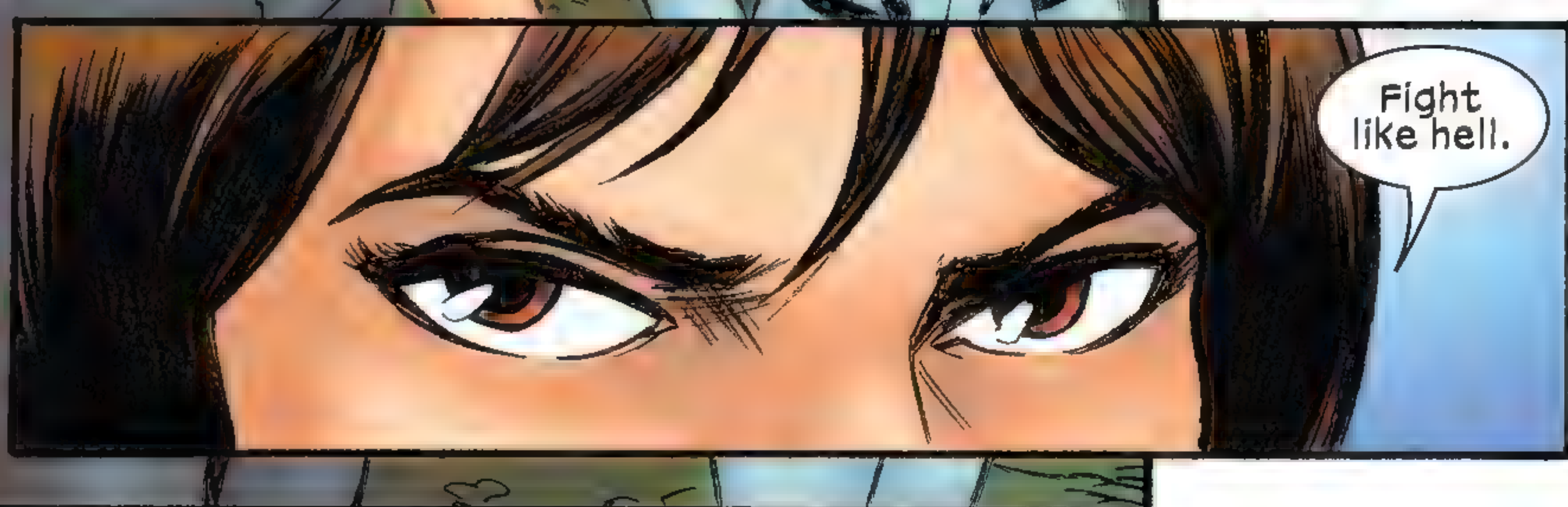
Nomi...

I've only accepted this position for a period of four weeks. Even if the Tian conflict is still unresolved, I step down and everyone votes.

I'm here to help turn the tide. Nothing more. Honestly, I *agree* with Blackheath. Utopia should have a Utopian as a leader.



So what will you do *now*, Kitty?



Fight like hell.



THE NEXT DAY.

What do you have to show me, Nomi?

Something totally awesome. Shola and I have been thinking for a while about weaponry...

Specifically ways to use our powers that haven't been done before.

Shola is telekinetic, you're magnetism?

In broad terms, sure. But I was thinking how Rogue and the Seed used the jungle as a weapon, and so I asked Magma to seed these mountain ridges with some really nice metal...



...Stuff I can use. So she did, and I rearranged it a bit. There's a line of iron, nickel, and cobalt leading all the way up that slope.

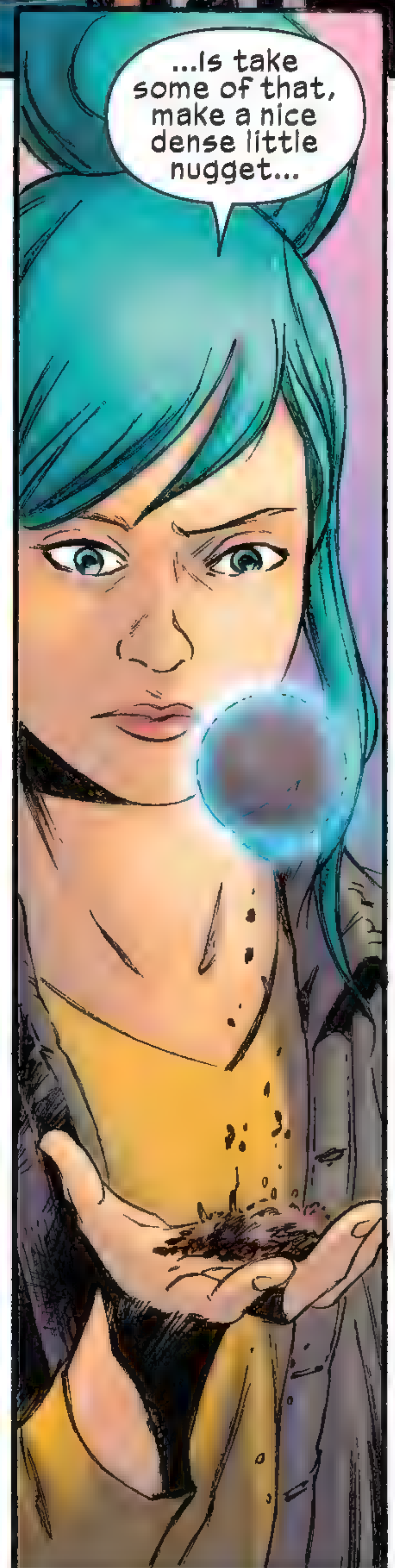
A perfect line.



A rail, if you will.

Don't give it away, Shola.

So what we do...



...Is take some of that, make a nice dense little nugget...





700 meter rail gun. Made in Utopia. Between Magma, Shola, and myself, we could make one as long as 26 miles, in theory.

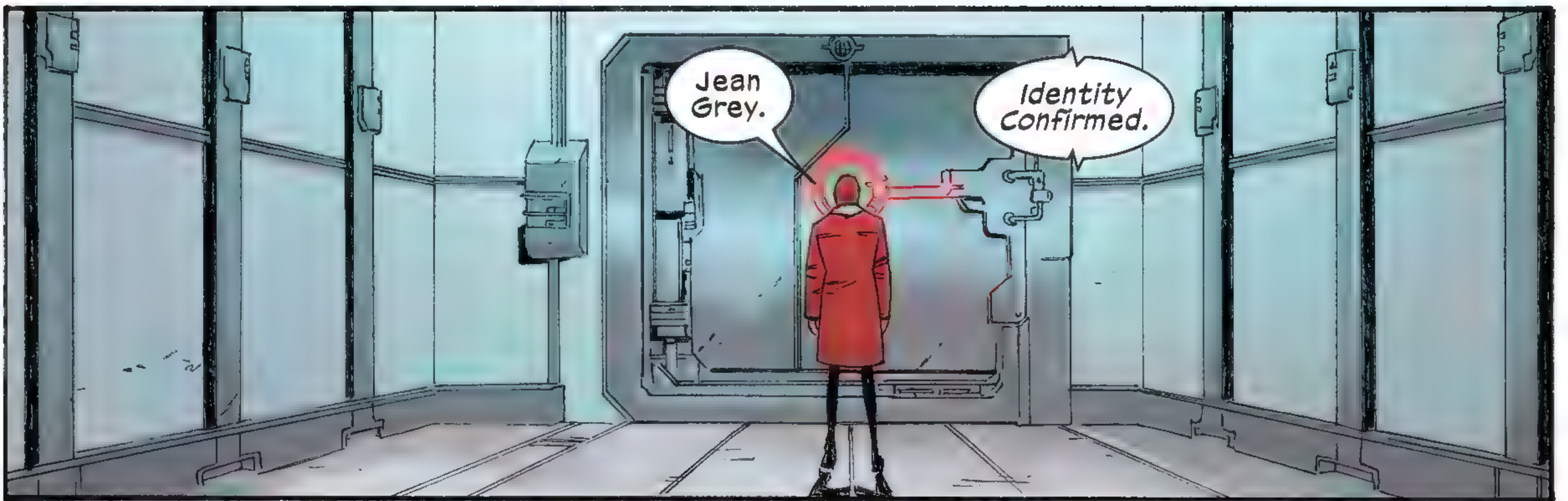
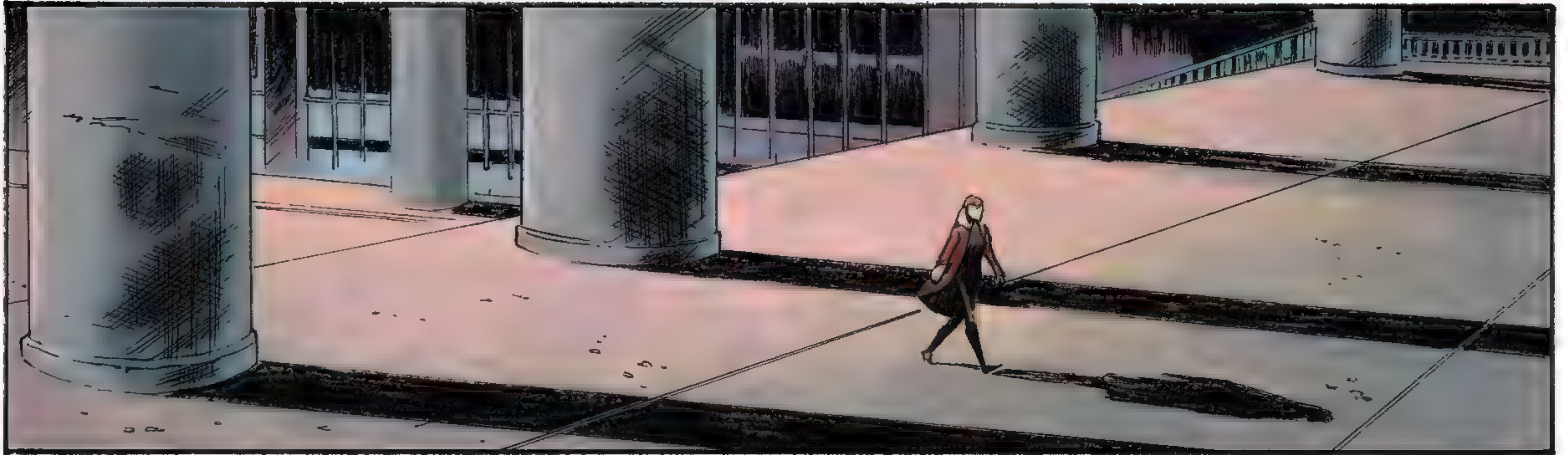
Well, obviously we can't confirm visually, but we did the math. The density of the bullet, the acceleration...

...Just this side of Hawaii, maybe?



With another day of tinkering, we could probably reach Tian.









...Could stand a lot more, right?

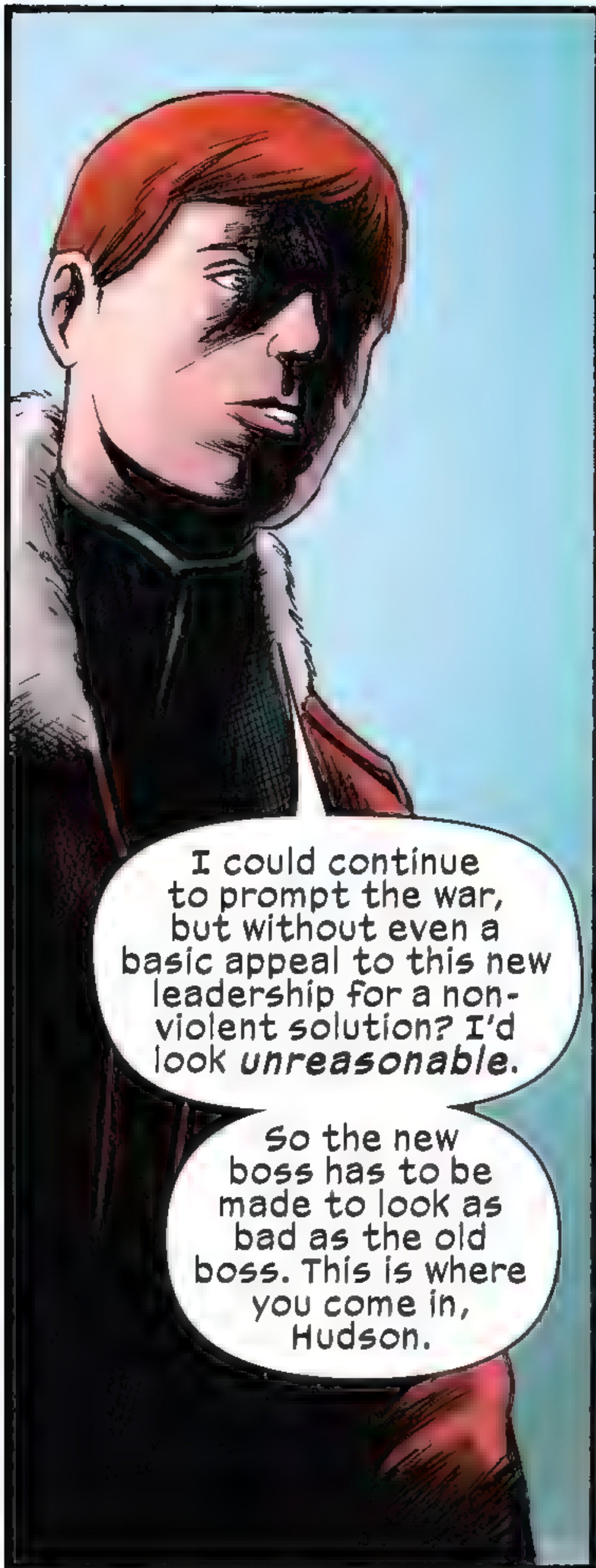
While I'd be up for the challenge. Time is not on my side. Things have changed.

And Kitty?



Just abdicated her throne, so to speak. On live television, she stepped down. Colossus has taken her place. Now *there's* a name from the past.

All very clever. Puts me in an awkward spot.



I could continue to prompt the war, but without even a basic appeal to this new leadership for a non-violent solution? I'd look *unreasonable*.

So the new boss has to be made to look as bad as the old boss. This is where you come in, Hudson.



I'm going to set you free. And then all of Tian is going to try and kill you. It's going to be open season on James Hudson, Utopian terrorist wreaking havoc on Tian soil.

Not only will you die, but my subsequent retaliation on Utopia will be swift, decisive, and *justified*.

You're insane. Just give it up, Jean.

...Don't you know when enough is enough?



I'll know it when I feel it.

Goodbye, James, it was almost something real, you and I.





Farbird.

MISTRESS?

Enough with this weather.



I'm taking you off perimeter watch.

Find that miserable witch, Storm, and pluck her from the skies.



WITH PLEASURE, MISTRESS.

Oh, it will be all mine, I assure you.

And you are free to take any steps, Farbird. She need not be taken alive. Jean Grey, out.



This is Jean Grey of Tian, to all residents. We have an **escaped prisoner**, a one James Hudson of Utopia. He is extremely dangerous and completely deranged.

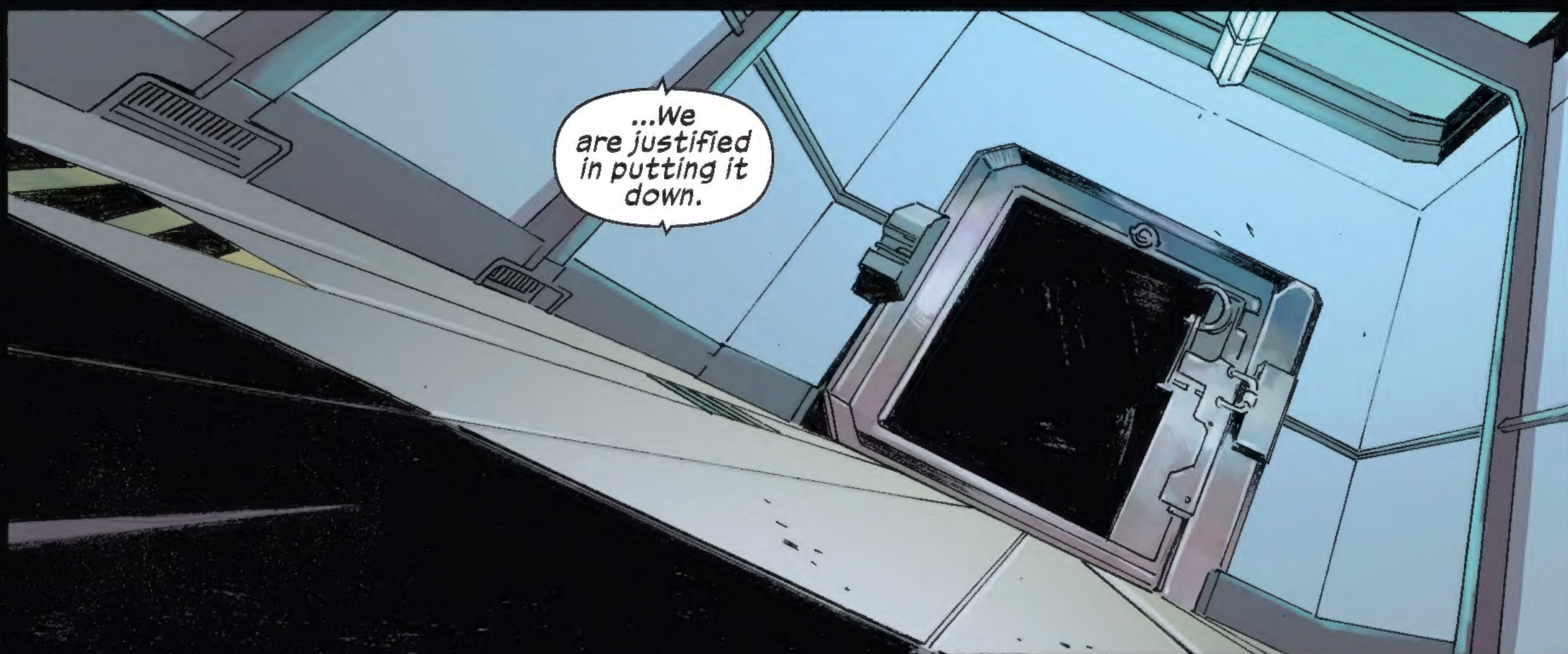
His mutant traits are a regenerative healing factor, heightened senses, and **claws**. You heard me right-- claws. Big ones.

I call on all loyal sons and daughters of the realm to join in the hunt, to bring this terrorist to justice.

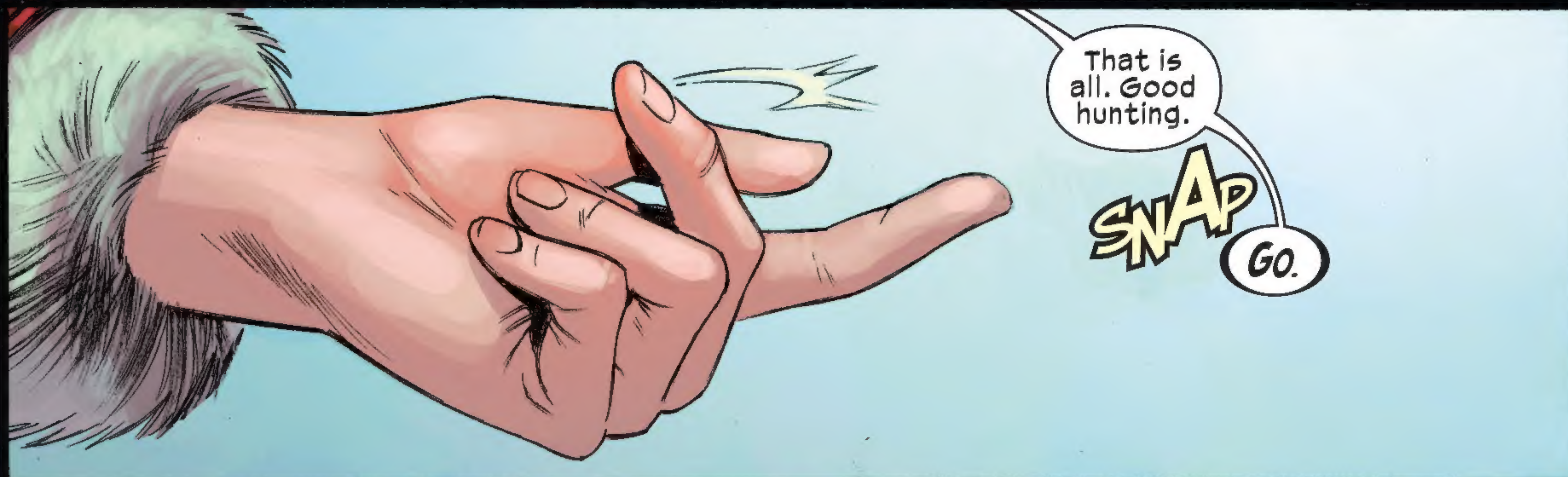




There's a monster loose in our homes, people...



...We are justified in putting it down.



That is all. Good hunting.

**SNAP**  
GO.

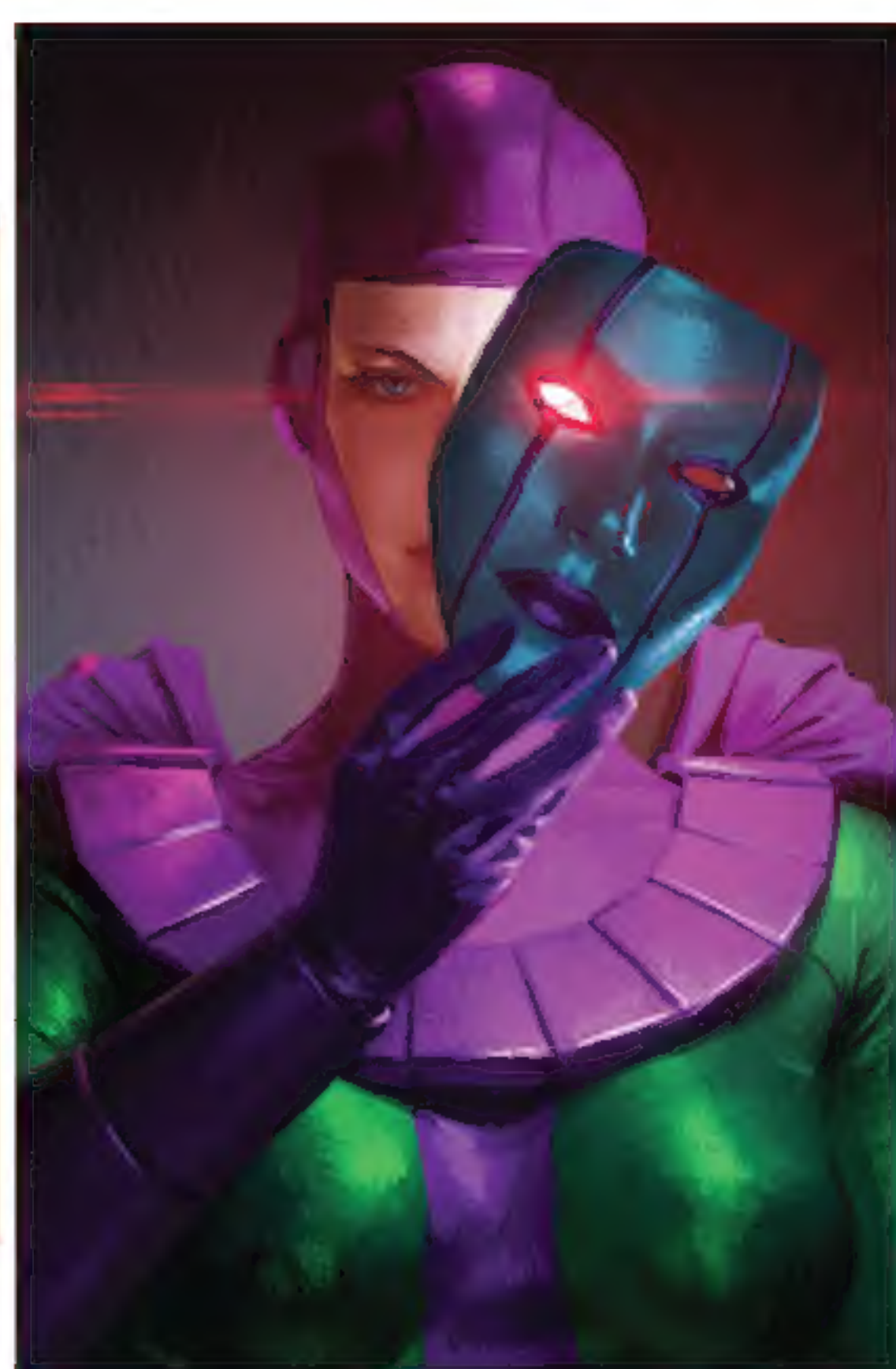




TO BE CONTINUED...



# NEXT: SNIKT!



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